

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (withdrawn): A machine purchasing system, comprising:

a database server for storing information on purchased machines;

an application server for receiving current prices of to-be-purchased machines and information on suppliers from an electronic marketing system, receiving historical transaction records from a financial management system, setting base prices for bidding, and electing one or more appropriate suppliers;

a plurality of distribute client computers for searching information stored in the database server and storing information in the database server.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): The machine purchasing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the application server comprises a basic data maintenance module for setting basic information on to-be-purchased machines.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): The machine purchasing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the application server comprises a purchasing data maintenance module for recording and updating information on machine purchasing.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): The machine purchasing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the application server comprises a base price-setting module for setting a base price of each to-be-purchased machine based on the current price of the machine and historical transaction records.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The machine purchasing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the application server comprises a purchasing scheme-compiling module for compiling purchasing schemes.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The machine purchasing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein

the application server comprises a contract-drawing module for drawing up legal contracts on purchasing machines.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The machine purchasing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the application server comprises a notice-sending module for sending notices on bidding results to corresponding suppliers.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A machine purchasing method, comprising the steps of:

- setting basic information on to-be-purchased machines;
- receiving historical transaction records from a financial management system;
- receiving current prices of the to-be-purchased machines;
- setting a base price of each to-be-purchased machine based on the historical transaction records and the current prices;
- compiling a purchasing scheme based on the basic information and the base price, the purchasing scheme being used for generating bidding documents;
- opening the bidding documents to suppliers;
- receiving supplier's responses to the bidding documents;
- determining whether a quotation of any supplier exceeds the base price;
- excluding a supplier if the quotation of the supplier exceeds the base price;
- auditing information on a supplier in order to determine whether the supplier is eligible if the quotation of the supplier does not exceed the base price; [[and]]
- selecting one or more acceptable quotations from quotations of all eligible suppliers, so as to select one or more successful suppliers from all eligible suppliers;  
and
- generating notices indicating quotations of the one or more successful suppliers are accepted.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The machine purchasing method as claimed in claim 8,

further comprising the steps of:

determining whether ~~it is necessary to negotiate with one or more items in a~~  
quotation of any eligible supplier need to be changed; and

negotiating with an eligible supplier if ~~it is necessary to negotiate with one or more~~  
items in the quotation of the eligible supplier need to be changed.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The machine purchasing method as claimed in claim 8,  
further comprising the step of sending a notice to ~~each~~ a successful supplier to inform  
that the quotation of the successful supplier of success is accepted.

Claim 11 (original): The machine purchasing method as claimed in claim 8, further  
comprising the step of drawing up one or more legal contracts.

Claim 12 (original): The machine purchasing method as claimed in claim 11, further  
comprising the step of sending said legal contracts to said successful suppliers and  
requesting said successful suppliers to sign said legal contracts.